



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW – Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
2009 MOCK ELECTIONS PROGRAM

- 1. What is secondary education?**
 - a. Secondary education is grades 9-12. EAC will not prohibit programs from targeting younger students in conjunction with a program for high school students but federal funds cannot be used to fund the portion of the program targeting those younger students.
- 2. Will the EAC weigh prior applicants more favorably than new applicants?**
 - a. The EAC will not give priority consideration to either new or prior applicants. EAC will award grants to those applicants who propose a program that is most likely to meet the goals and objectives of the Mock Election Program. Applications will be reviewed according to the criteria established in the *Notice*:
 - i. Program Design (50%)
 - ii. Organizational Capacity (35%)
 - iii. Budget/Cost Effectiveness (15%)
- 3. What consideration are you able to give to election officials who cannot accommodate using the equipment intended for the actual election just five days before the actual election?**
 - a. The program does not require the mock election to be held five days before the actual election; rather, the program prohibits the mock election to be held within five or less days of the election. Further, the intent is that a proposed program will work with election administrators to ensure that the voting systems utilized during the mock election are similar to the voting systems used by voters in the project's covered area, but this is not a requirement. The overall goal of the program is to operate a program of simulated elections for students in secondary education programs to allow students to become more familiar with voting processes and technologies so that when they become eligible to vote they will be more comfortable with their civic duties. Election equipment is one part of the voting system. The voting system does not solely refer to the equipment used, but also (though not limited to) ballot styles, registration procedures, absentee and/or early voting procedures.
- 4. If we conduct all-mail elections, will we be less competitive than jurisdictions that use equipment?**
 - a. No, the selection criteria are not weighted against jurisdictions that have all mail-in elections. Under Program Design in the selection criteria, 20 percent of the available points are devoted to "the extent to which the proposed program will work with election administrators to ensure that the voting systems used during



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the mock election are similar to the voting systems used by voters in the project's covered area...", so a program that mirrors an all-mail election would not be disadvantaged.

- 5. Must applicants conduct a program in 2009 or can applicants propose two elections in 2010?**
 - a. Applicants may propose planning and scaled down activities in the 2009 election cycle in preparation for larger initiatives for the 2010 election cycle. EAC understands that not all jurisdictions have elections in 2009. Some applicants may wish to conduct two elections in 2010 or they may wish to devote resources to developing a larger initiative for the November general election. EAC will not limit the possibilities. Applicants should propose a program that both meets the goals and objectives of the Mock Election Program and is reasonable given your regional and local circumstances.
- 6. Are we able to partner with organizations in other states or jurisdictions by filing a joint application?**
 - a. Yes, an application may be developed jointly by more than one agency or organization, although the application must identify one organization as the legal applicant. The other participating organizations can be included as co-participants, sub-grantees, or subcontractors.
- 7. If we want to hire a program coordinator, must we use someone in our office?**
 - a. No, grantees can determine who they would like to hire, either inside or outside the agency. School teachers receiving a stipend in return for coordinating activities would be one possibility. Grantees may also choose to hire program coordinators on contractual basis.
- 8. What are examples of allowable costs?**
 - a. Some examples of allowable costs are:
 - i. Salaries for coordinators
 - ii. Printing and development costs for materials
 - iii. Programming for equipment or ballots used in the mock election
 - iv. Travel expenses for coordinators
 - v. Stipends or enticements for different levels of student participation
- 9. What can't funding be used for?**
 - a. Funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages, bad debt, contingencies, contributions to other entities, entertainment (including costs of amusement, diversion, social activities, ceremonials, and costs relating thereto, such as meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, gratuities, and prizes), goods or services for personal use, organization costs (such as incorporation fees, brokers' fees, fees to



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promoters, management consultants, attorneys, accountants, or investment counselors), religious activities, lobbying, voter registration, and get-out-the-vote expenditures.

10. Can we conduct voter registration in conjunction with the program?

- a. Federal funds cannot be used to conduct actual voter registration. However, it is not a problem if high school seniors are registered in conjunction with the mock election program. Costs associated with registering students for the mock election are allowable expenditures.

11. Can funds be used for awards for students?

- a. We would allow stipends or recognition for participation or enticements for serving as poll workers at the mock election. We will not pay for cash prizes or awards for competitions. A grantee would not be prohibited from using in-kind or non-federal funds to provide prizes.

12. Are indirect costs allowable?

- a. Grantees may recover indirect costs under this grant up to 5 percent of the total federal share of the grant. If an applicant has an approved federal indirect cost rate the remainder of the indirect costs can be used as a matching contribution. Applicants without an approved indirect rate may not claim indirect costs as a matching contribution.

13. When is the budget period?

- a. The budget period begins on or within 10 days of the date of award. EAC anticipates making awards in early September.

14. Are community resources required?

- a. Matching funds or other community resources are not required, but are encouraged. Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate community/stakeholder participation in the program and long term sustainability of the program through use of non-federal cash and in-kind support for the program.

15. Can we send our electronic version on a flash drive instead of a CD or DVD?

- a. Yes.

16. What are the reporting requirements for this grant?

- a. The reporting requirements, including deadlines, and other data collection requirements can be found on page 13 of the application.

17. Who are the past recipients of this award?



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- a. Information about past programs and past grantees can be found on the EAC website here: <http://www.eac.gov/News/help-america-vote-college-program-and-help-america-vote-mock-election-program-grant-winners>.
- 18. Who is the agency contact and who should we ask if we have more questions?**
- a. Questions should be directed to Mark Abbott or Julie Ruder. Mark or Julie can be reached at (202) 566-3100 or by sending an email to mockelections@eac.gov. Emails will be replied to within one business day.